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## MONGEVLIN CASTLE, COUNTY OF DONEGAL.



Mongevlin Castle, the subject of the prefixed engraving, is situated in the County of Donegal, on the banks of the Foyle, about seven miles from Londonderry, and one from the village of St. Johnstown. It is thus mentioned in Captain Pynnar's Survey of the Escheated Counties of Ulster, in 1619 :—"Sir John Stewart hath three thousand acres, called Cashell, Hetin, and Littergull. Upon this proportion there is built, at *Magevlin*, a very strong Castle, with a flanker at each corner." (Harris's Hibernica.)

The walls of the court-yard and gate-way, erected between the Foyle and the Castle, were standing till within a few years ago. A small stone flag, with the following inscription, was built in the arch :

J. S.  
E. S. T.  
1619.

This stone has been lost, but another remains, bearing the following inscription :—"The Hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of John, Lord Culpeper, and widow of Colonel James Hamilton, (who lost his life at sea in Spain, in the service of his king and country,) purchased this manor, and annexed it to the opposite estate of the family, which paternal estate itself has improved by her prudent management, to nearly the yearly income of the dower she received thereout. She hath also settled her younger son, William Hamilton, Esq. in an estate acquired in England, of nearly equal value in the purchase to this, and given every one of her numerous offspring, descended from both branches, some considerable mark of her parental care. Her eldest son, James, Earl of Abercorn, and Viscount Strabane, hath caused this inscription to be placed here for the information of her posterity. Anno 1704."

James II. stopped here for a short time during the siege of Derry ; and from this place he sent proposals of surrender to the garrison by his host, Archdeacon Hamilton.

A melancholy incident is connected with the recent history of the Castle ; and it may be mentioned, as illustrative of the power which superstition possesses over the ignorant mind. W—D— was a young lad, servant to the person who inhabited the Castle a few years ago. While out one winter night in a neighbouring farm-house, he was informed by one of his companions that the castle was "haunted"—that at night strange forms had been

seen in the upper rooms, hurrying to and fro—and fearful stories were told of yells and screams, as if uttered by persons in extreme pain, which had been heard by various individuals at the hour of midnight. Naturally nervous and superstitious, W—D— felt horror-struck by these details, the correctness of which was vouched by the solemn assertions of more than one of the auditors. He retired, however, at the usual time, to bed—"but not to rest." In every moan that the wind made, as it blew through the old and broken roofs of the castle, he heard the wailings and the screams of unearthly beings ; and his excited imagination called up before his eyes hosts of frightful and appalling forms. On the morning he went home to his relations, and told them that he could not remain any longer in the castle, as it was "haunted ;" but they, conceiving this to be an excuse he had framed for leaving his master's employment, obliged him to return. He did so ; but in consequence of the continued and powerful influence of his superstitious dread, insanity ensued ; and one morning, shortly afterwards, he was found suspended by the neck, a stiffened corpse !

*Ballymena.*

J. A. H.



## MOUNT CASTLE, COUNTY OF TYRONE.

The above is all that now remains of a pile of building, at one period of very considerable extent. The castle is situated on the estate of the Marquis of Abercorn, who derives from the place the title of Baron Mountcastle. It is supposed to have been erected in the commencement of the seventeenth century.

Adjacent to the ruins is a fine prospect of the surrounding country ; which presents that variety of appearance, hill and dale, mountain and valley, which invariably characterizes the province of Ulster. To the west is seen the river Foyle, winding through the rich and well-cultivated parish of Clonleigh, with the numerous fine plantations and snug farm-houses appearing on its banks ; and the prospect is bounded, in that direction, by the mountains of Donegal, appearing dim and indistinct in the far distant horizon.

*Ballymena.*

J. A. H.

Dublin : Printed and Published by P. Dixon Hardy, 3, Cecilia-street, to whom all communications are to be addressed.

In London, by Richard Groombridge, 6, Panyer-alley, Paternoster-row ; in Liverpool, by Willmer and Smith ; in Manchester, by Ambery ; in Birmingham, by Guest, 91, Steelhouse-lane ; in Glasgow, by John Macleod ; and in Edinburgh, by N. Bowack,